



Florida House of Representatives

Democratic Office

Franklin Sands
Democratic Leader

Geraldine F. Thompson
Democratic Leader Pro Tempore

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2008

CONTACT: Mark Hollis
(850) 488-9622

Statement by

REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN KIAR **Democratic Ranking Member, Pre-K-12 Policy Committee**

"Today's OPPAGA report fails to examine the true financial costs of private school vouchers on school districts and the majority of Florida's students.

"The Legislature should demand a more honest report card on vouchers. I will ask OPPAGA to conduct a more complete review of the program.

"The report should have looked at how the program interferes with the constitutional duty of the Legislature to provide an adequate education to all students. To do that, it should examine the effect on students who remain in public schools.

"Instead, the report offers little more than second-grade math. It's not sufficient to conclude that the state spends less by giving a child up to \$3,950 a year to attend a private school. That's forgetting the fact that when a student takes a voucher, schools lose precious money for all students. The state allocates \$6,987, on average, for a student to attend public school.

"It is imperative that our state provide all of our children with the best education possible. As a result, OPPAGA must reevaluate its report using a much more thorough and fair methodology."

###

